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Shaw Pleads Not Guilty to Plotting Kennedy Death

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NEW ORLEANS, April 5—Clay L. Shaw pleaded not guilty at his formal arraignment today on charges of having conspired to murder President Kennedy.

The arraignment was over in four minutes. Defense attorneys predicted that the retired New Orleans business executive would go on trial within three to six months.

Meanwhile today, an Orleans Parish (county) grand jury, which is probing the assassination under the direction of District Attorney Jim Garrison, indicted a New Orleans man on perjury charges growing out of the investigation.

He is Layton Martens, a roommate of the late David W. Ferrie, who Mr. Garrison says conspired with Mr. Shaw. Bond was set at $2,500.

The grand jury said Mr. Martens had lied under oath when he denied to the grand jurors that he knew Gordon Novel and said he did not remember taking a trip with Sergio Arcacha Smith.

Associated Press

Layton Martens, who was indicted yesterday on perjury charges stemming from New Orleans investigation.

As part of his investigation into the assassination, Mr. Garrison is seeking to extradite Mr. Novel from Ohio and Mr. Smith from Texas on charges that they burglarized a munitions cache before the assassination.

Both Mr. Smith, a Cuban refugee, and Mr. Novel, a former New Orleans night club operator, have publicly denied any involvement in the assassination.

At the arraignment proceeding today, defense attorneys asked for—and received—assurances that Mr. Shaw's trial would not get under way for at least one month.

This was done, the defense attorneys said, to insure that they would have enough time to file technical motions.

The grand jury indictment under which Mr. Shaw was arraigned today charged that he had "willfully and unlawfully" entered into a conspiracy with two other men to murder President Kennedy.

The indictment named the two men as Mr. Ferrie, a one-time airline pilot here, and Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who, the Warren Commission concluded, killed President Kennedy alone and without being a part of any conspiracy.

Mr. Garrison and his staff had the option of arraigning Mr. Shaw on either the grand jury indictment or as the result of a public hearing in which a panel of three judges had ruled there was sufficient evidence to warrant a trial for Mr. Shaw.

But if Mr. Garrison had chosen to proceed on the judges' ruling he would have had to file a detailed bill of information telling why he suspected Mr. Shaw of having committed a crime.

Today's perjury indictment against Mr. Martens was the second issued by the grand jury.

The other was against Dean A. Andrews, a Jefferson Parish attorney, who said—in testimony to a Warren Commission staff member—then denied, then stated again that a homosexual named Clay Bertrand had once sent Lee Oswald to his law office with a legal problem.

Mr. Garrison contends that Mr. Shaw and Clay Bertrand are the same person. But Mr. Andrews said he had been unable to make a connection between Mr. Shaw and the "Bertrand" man.

The Warren Commission checked Mr. Andrews's story shortly after the assassination and concluded that there was no homosexual named Clay Bertrand in the New Orleans area.